

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

MO 11/16/10 Please amend the two paragraphs that start on page 2, line 24 and end on page 3, line ¹⁵16 as shown below.

One particular time a file system is mounted is just before the file system is exported. To export a file system is to make the file system available for NFS clients to mount (i.e., to attach the branch to their own tree). When exporting a file system, the mount point as well as the name of the storage device containing the file system must be provided (i.e., ~~the name of the branch and the location on the tree where the branch is to be attached~~ as well as the location where the branch is stored must be provided). If the file system is mounted, all the needed information is known; hence, the reason why file systems are mounted before they are exported.

~~Nonetheless, most Unix-based servers contain a great number of file systems. Due to design limitations, all the file systems may not be mounted simultaneously. Hence, a lot of these servers adopt a policy of mounting file systems when they are needed and of dismounting or unmounting them unless they are used within a pre-defined amount of time.~~ As mentioned before, most Unix-based servers mount some file systems only when they are needed. But, if a mounted non-critical OS file system has not been used within a pre-defined amount of time, it will be unmounted. This allows for other file systems to be mounted if needed. As will be explained later, mounting file systems can be a relatively time-consuming and CPU-intensive endeavor. Thus, mounting file systems only for

AUS920010866US1

most Unix-based systems, very little restrictions are placed on contents of extended attributes. Hence, any application program may attach an extended attribute to any object. The attached extended attribute may or may not have meaning outside of that application.

MP 11/18/10 Please amend the paragraph on page 15, lines 21 - 25
as shown below.

Thus, upon startup and after file system A (see fig. 4) is mounted, the extended attribute associated with mount point dir1 is checked to determine the names of the devices ~~that~~ which contain the file systems to be mounted at that mount point. Once this is determined, the file systems may be exported.